

Serial No. 08/959,758

PATENT

rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by the Lazarus reference. Claims 5-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over the Lazarus reference in view of the Hillstead reference. Claims 17 and 18 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 20 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112 and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 16 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112 and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 12-15 were allowable over the prior art of record.

By this amendment, claims 1, 4, 7-10, 12, 16, 17, 19 and 20 are being amended and claim 11 is being canceled to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter sought to be patented and to further distinguish the claims over the cited references.

The reexamination and reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested, and it is further requested that the application be passed to issue.

Although the foregoing discussion is believed to be dispositive of the issues in this case, applicants' attorney requests a telephone interview with the Examiner to further discuss any unresolved issues remaining after the Examiner's consideration of this amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

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By

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